## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EPA-01 CEQ-01 OES-03

/073 W

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R 241005Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0461

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS 026

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BORDEAUX 0149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 33193

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US CONCERNING LANDING RIGHTS FOR CONCORDE HAVE AROUSED LOCAL FEELINGS IN TOULOUSE WHERE "AEROSPATIALE", THE CONCORDE PRODUCTION PLANT, IS LOCATED, DESPITE COMPLEXITY OF ISSUES INVOLVED, LOCAL PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION ADOPTING SIMPLISTIC EXPLANATIONS FOR POSSIBLE REJECTION OF CONCORDE BY US. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HEAR ARGUMENTS THAT US AVIATION INDUSTRY IS "OUT TO GET" CONCORDE AND THAT ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ARE MERELY A COVER FOR SOME SORT OF CONSPIRACY AGAINST THIS TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT BY FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF COURSE, THIS SENTIMENT IS PREVELANT AMONG WORKERS IN

TOULOUSE, EXPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE JOB SECURITY IS DEPENDENT ON "AEROSPATIALE."

2. THE GRASSROOTS SENTIMENT WAS EXEMPLIFIED RECENTLY IN TWO SPECIFIC WAYS:

FIRST, THE REGIONAL PREFET DANIEL DOUSTIN TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT IF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY COLMAN'S DECISION IN EARLY FEBRUARY ON CONCORDE IS NEGATIVE, HE WOULD EXPECT, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM, LOCAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN TOULOUSE AND IN BORDEAUX AGAINST THE US CONSULATE GENERAL. ACCORDINGLY, HE HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT CONTINGENCY SECURITY MEASURES ON/ABOUT FEBRUARY 5.

3. SECOND, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRANCE/ETATS-UNIS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER IN TOULOUSE INFORMED ME THAT IF US DECISION WAS NEGATIVE ON CONCORDE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CLOSE DOWN THAT FRANCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE OF THE RESULTANT ANTI-AMERICAN POPULAR FEELING IN TOULOUSE. A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT IS BEING ADDRESSED BY THIS ASSOCIATION TO AMBASSADOR RUSH.

COMMENT: THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS REPORTED TO DEMONSTRATE THE INCREASING EMOTIONAL FEELING HERE IN THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE WHERE CONCORDE'S FUTURE HAS AN IMPORTANT IMPACT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY. OF COURSE, A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN LOCAL POPULAR ATTITUDES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORS OF "AEROSPATIALE" AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN TOULOUSE WHO HAVE A MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THE COMPLEX FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE US DECISION ON CONCORDE (SEE BORDEAUX'S 133 AND PARIS REFTEL).

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, LANDING RIGHTS, CONCORDE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES

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